

Good afternoon, I am John Sloan, a Councilman in the town of Cortlandt.

About a half century ago some well-meaning men concluded that an Atomic Power Plant could and should be built on the banks of the Hudson. Some ~~minor~~ concerns existed about its safety and proximity to New York City, but these, it was thought, could be allayed by diligence and good engineering.

Today, as you know, a fierce debate rages on the need to close Indian Point, or to protect it. Both sides are well armed with argument and counter-argument. Interestingly, the one opinion that has near-unanimous agreement is that if the plant were built here and now, it would not be built here and now.... At least, not on the existing site, or anywhere near it.

^{Decision-makers}
The ~~designers~~ in the 1950s had no way of conceiving the threat of terrorism as we experience it today. They had no desire to bequeath a liability, an intimidation to future generations. They simply wanted to create energy for a growing American.

Nonetheless, we have vast resources marshaled to protect Indian Point. It is there, it is a reality we have to deal with.

The Mellenium Pipeline represents just such a legacy for other generations. It is, environmentally, a Perfect Storm.....a unique transport endangering homes, habitats, ^{schools} water supply, and all the people who used them -- as many good speakers have attested to today. ~~It also poses a very real threat to our future.~~ ^{with threat to}

^{Commerce}
Mr. Secretary, all you and FERC want to accomplish is the supply of reliable energy to New York City. Yet, you have an opportunity now, that your counterparts in the Eisenhower years failed to recognize or simply squandered; that mis-placing an energy source ~~is~~ as bad as not building it at all. ^{can be} _{to determine}

^{Risks}
I urge you, Mr. Secretary, not to double-up our ~~problems~~ in Cortlandt, not to put this permanent threat, literally, in our back yards.